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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BIG NEWS
Meeting of world leaders held in India
p3

SPORTS
US teen triumphs in tennis
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NATIONAL NEWS
Increase in school lunch programs
p5

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Making sense of the world

# THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

# SUPER SHOTS

Announcing the winning images in our third annual Nature Photo Contest p12

GRAND PRIZE
Ages 11–14
KARSYN

**In Karsyn's words:**
"The resplendent quetzal, which I saw in Costa Rica, is one of the most beautiful birds in the world."

**KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**
The nation covers more than 158,300 square miles and has a population of about 36.5 million people.

Survivors walk through rubble after the earthquake.

## How to help

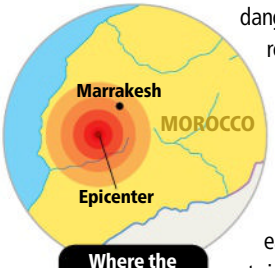
**If you and your family would like to help people in Morocco, there are many nonprofits to support. One option is UNICEF, which is collecting funds to help children and families. Other organizations include Doctors Without Borders, which has medical providers in Morocco, and World Central Kitchen, which is distributing food and water in the area.**

# Major earthquake devastates Morocco

On September 8, a powerful earthquake struck Morocco. It was the strongest quake in the North African nation in more than 100 years.

### What happened?

An earthquake is a sudden shaking of the Earth's surface that occurs when two blocks of the planet's crust, called tectonic plates, suddenly shift positions. The Morocco quake measured a magnitude of at least 6.8 on a scale used by the US Geological Survey that goes up to 10. The epicenter (where the earthquake begins and is strongest) was in the High Atlas mountain range, about 45 miles southwest of the ancient city of Marrakesh. Tremors were felt as far away as Casablanca, more than 150 miles to the north. Villages at the foot of the Atlas mountains were the hardest hit, and widespread destruction also occurred in Marrakesh. Earthquakes in that area are not unusual, but of the nine that have struck there since 1900, none had a magnitude higher than 6.




Where the earthquake hit

### What damage was caused?

Officials estimated that 300,000 people have been affected by the earthquake, many of whom lost their homes and have been sleeping outside. When *The Week Junior* went to press, more than 2,900 people were known to have died and more than 5,530 people were injured, mostly in the Al Haouz region, a mountainous area of tiny hillside villages. Many buildings collapsed, including at least half of the structures in some hard-hit villages. The quake damaged historical sites, including the Tinmal Mosque, an important place of worship built in the 12th century. Many survivors lost power and phone service. School was suspended in 43 villages, where more than 500 educational facilities were damaged or destroyed.

### Why was the damage so extensive?

Experts said the location within Earth's crust where the earthquake occurred made it particularly dangerous. Also, many people in the region lived in buildings made of mud bricks and other inexpensive materials that were not structurally sound. In addition, a 2016 report found that Morocco lacked an emergency plan for a large earthquake in the nation's most at-risk areas. And the population in the Marrakesh region is tightly packed, making building collapses more likely to hurt people.

### How are people being helped?

Morocco deployed its military for search, rescue, and recovery operations. But rescue teams struggled to reach hard-hit mountainous areas and navigate roads blocked by debris. Many citizens in these regions were angry at what they called the government's slow response. Although dozens of nations, including the US, have offered assistance, Morocco has only accepted aid from Spain, the UK, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Morocco's government said it was limiting international help in order to keep efforts organized. Some activists, however, accused Morocco of refusing aid from certain countries for political reasons. Workers with non-governmental aid organizations have been able to enter Morocco and are distributing food, water, tents, and blankets. Moroccans are helping one another and carrying supplies to remote areas by car and on foot. Players from Morocco's national soccer team donated blood to help the wounded.

### What will happen next?

As *The Week Junior* went to press, recovery efforts were ongoing, and the death toll was expected to rise. Officials were using helicopters to access the hardest-to-reach locations and heavy machinery to clear roads. The Moroccan government said it would accept help from other countries once it was able to "precisely assess needs on the ground." The nation's leader, King Mohammed VI, created a relief organization to provide help to survivors and called for three days of mourning and prayer.

# Japan joins race to land on Moon

The Japanese space agency (JAXA) launched a rocket on September 7, headed for the Moon. The rocket, which took off from the Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan, carried a lunar lander called SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon). SLIM separated from the rocket after the launch and is expected to enter the Moon's orbit within four months and land in February. Lunar spacecraft usually land within a mile or more of their target, but JAXA will try to land SLIM with "pinpoint accuracy," within 328 feet of its target.

The rocket also carried a satellite called XRISM (X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission), which is a joint project of JAXA, NASA (the US space agency), and the European Space Agency. XRISM separated from the rocket and began orbiting Earth to study black holes and other space objects.

If SLIM reaches the lunar surface, Japan will become the fifth nation—after the US, Russia, China, and India—to land on the Moon. India's space agency made history on August 23 when it became the first to land on the Moon's south pole.

Japan's SLIM lander

**DID YOU KNOW?**
G20 nations account for two thirds of the world's population and more than 75% of global trade.

G20 leaders at the meeting

# Leaders meet at G20 summit in India

On September 9 and 10, world leaders met in Delhi, India, for the annual summit of the Group of Twenty (G20) nations. The G20 is made up of 19 countries plus the European Union (EU, a group of 27 nations, mostly in Europe). It was formed in 1999 to address global economic issues and includes nations with the largest economies, such as the US, China, Japan, and the UK. Each year, a different country hosts the meeting.

This year, the meeting focused on world challenges including economic growth, climate change, food security, and global healthcare. Among the meeting's outcomes, the African Union (an organization of 55 countries and other territories in Africa) was added as a G20 member and plans were announced for two new international railways for trading purposes. One is within Africa, and the other will connect India to the Middle East and Europe.

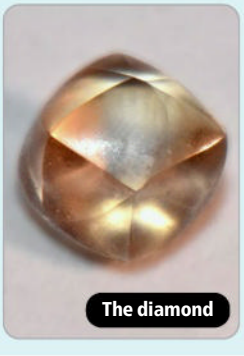
In a declaration after the summit, G20 leaders said, "We are determined to steer the world out of its current challenges and build a safer, stronger, more resilient, inclusive, and healthier future for our people and the planet."

The group received criticism, however, for failing to hold Russia responsible for the ongoing war in Ukraine. The war began in February 2022 when Russia—a member of the G20—invaded Ukraine. The G20's declaration said all countries "must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition" but did not directly condemn Russia's actions or demand that it withdraw. Ukrainian officials said the G20 had "nothing to be proud of."

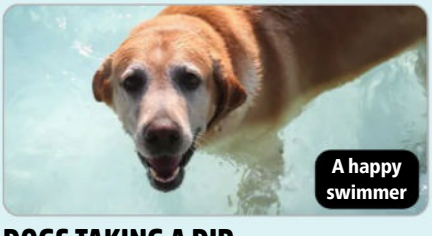
# IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

## A SPARKLING DISCOVERY

**A girl in Arkansas got a celebratory surprise when she found a 2.95 carat diamond on her 7th birthday. Aspen Brown and her family were enjoying the day at Crater of Diamonds State Park, where the public can dig for gems, when she spotted the golden stone.**



The diamond



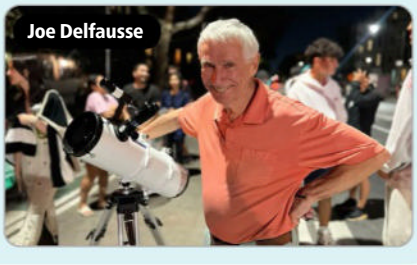
A happy swimmer

## DOGS TAKING A DIP

**The smell of wet fur filled the air as a public pool in Springfield, Missouri, hosted its annual Dog Swim Night to raise money for a local dog park. Dozens of playful pups splashed around while their humans—who were not allowed in the water—snapped photos from the pool deck.**

## SHARING THE STARS

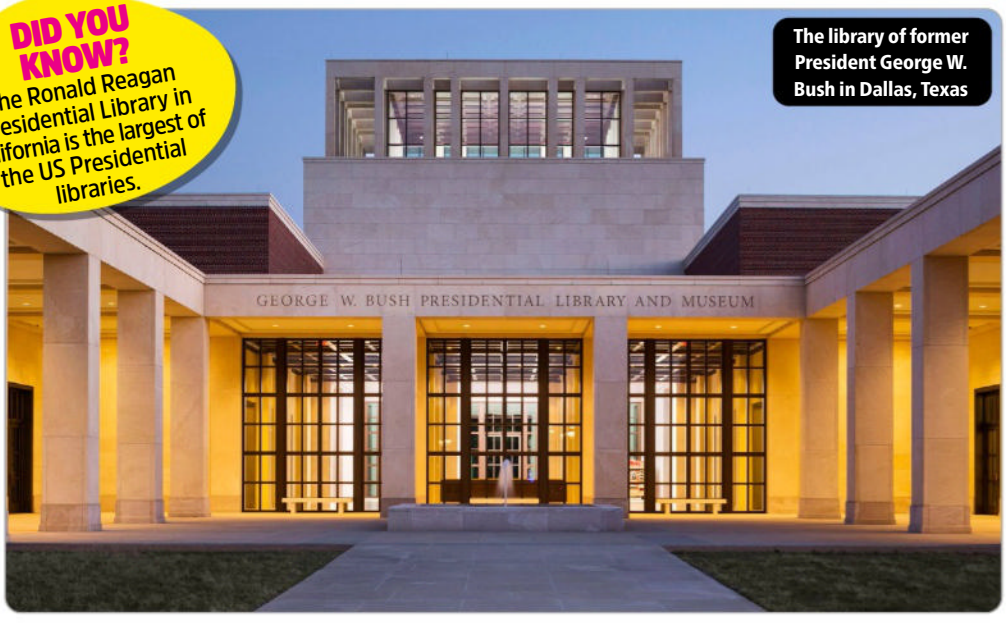
**Joe Delfausse, age 82, set up a telescope in his Brooklyn, New York, neighborhood and invited passers-by to peer up at Saturn. Traffic slowed as a line of people formed. Delfausse often takes his telescope out on clear nights. "I can't think of anything that's more meaningful than this kind of stargazing with people," he said.**



Joe Delfausse

ON THE COVER: KARSYN A. STERNS; GETTY IMAGES (2); ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; JAPAN AEROSPACE EXPLORATION AGENCY; COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE PARKS; GRETA CROSS/SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER; CATALINA GONELLA; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); UNICEF

**DID YOU KNOW?**
The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California is the largest of the US Presidential libraries.



The library of former President George W. Bush in Dallas, Texas

## First Presidential library

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd president, who served from 1933 to 1945, donated his personal and Presidential papers and part of his estate to the US. This led to the creation of his Presidential library (shown above) in Hyde Park, New York, in 1941. The first of its kind, it inspired the passage of the Presidential Libraries Act in 1955.

# Presidential libraries speak out for democracy

A group representing nearly all the US Presidential libraries has released a statement calling for Americans to help protect the foundations of the nation's democracy (a government in which the people choose their leaders). This is the first time in US history that these institutions have made a joint statement.

### What is a Presidential library?

In 1955, Congress (the branch of government that makes laws) passed the Presidential Libraries Act, creating a system of libraries that are privately built but owned by the federal government and maintained by the National Archives. The libraries contain the public records created during each leader's years in office and are typically located in a former President's hometown. The collections are used by historians and members of the public to learn about Presidents and their role in US history.

### What did the statement say?

The statement called for Americans to commit to the basic principles of a democracy, including respecting the rule of law and allowing for debate and disagreement. It urged elected officials and citizens to "engage in civil dialogue" and "uphold safe, secure, and accessible elections." It was a bipartisan effort (supported by the libraries of Democratic and Republican former Presidents).

### Which libraries supported it?

The creation of the statement was led by David Kramer, executive director of the library of George W. Bush, the 43rd President. The statement was also supported by the libraries of former Presidents Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama. The library of Dwight D. Eisenhower did not sign it. No organizations with ties to former President Donald Trump signed it, and he does not have a library in operation.

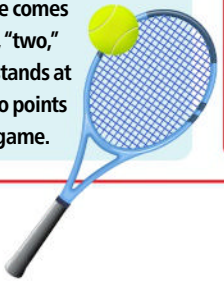
### Why is the statement significant?

The libraries wanted to remind citizens that the country is rooted in democracy. Valerie Jarrett, CEO of the Obama Foundation, said it was about "making our country strong." Kramer said the letter was also intended to send a message to countries that the US stands firm in its founding principles.

## WORD OF THE WEEK

**TENNIS**

The name of this popular sport is believed to come from the French *tenez*, meaning "receive," which is a call a player who is serving might make to their opponent. The score of "deuce" in a game comes from the Old French *deus*, "two," because when the score stands at deuce, either player is two points away from winning that game.



## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

### September 20, 2019
Millions march for climate action

On September 20, 2019, 4 million people on all seven continents took to the streets to demand action on climate change. The event was inspired by Greta Thunberg, a teenager in Sweden who organized protests that called on leaders to protect the Earth. On September 20, Thunberg addressed more than 60,000 people in New York City, saying, "We demand a safe future. Is that too much to ask?"

Greta Thunberg

A view of the refuge

## Land in Alaska to be protected

President Joe Biden announced that his administration will cancel seven oil and gas drilling projects that were scheduled to take place in Alaska's Arctic Wildlife Refuge. The projects, led by private companies, would have affected more than 13 million acres of wilderness in Alaska. Deb Haaland, US secretary of the interior, said such drilling does not belong in federal areas. "Public lands belong to all Americans," she said.

Lainey Wilson

## Country music nominees named

The Country Music Association has announced the nominees for its 57th annual CMA Awards. Singer-songwriter Lainey Wilson led with nine nominations, including for Entertainer of the Year. Wilson was the top nominee last year with six nominations, and she won two of them. The awards will be presented in a televised ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee, on November 8.

Alissa, the rhino calf

## White rhino born in Florida

Lion Country Safari in Loxahatchee, Florida, reported the birth of a southern white rhinoceros calf. Alissa, born to mom Anna, is the 40th rhino calf delivered at the facility since 1979. Rhino calves weigh about 125 pounds at birth and gain about 100 pounds per month in the first year. The park called the birth a "major milestone" in the effort to ensure the long-term survival of the threatened species.

**SUPPORTING STUDENTS**
About 60% of US adults favor providing children with free lunch at school, a new YouGov survey reported.

Universal school meals have many benefits, research shows.

# More states serving free school meals

During this academic year, six more states have begun offering free breakfast and lunch to all students attending public schools. The states are Colorado, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Vermont. In 2021, California became the first state to offer free meals to all public school students, followed by Maine in 2022.

During the pandemic, from 2020 to 2022, the US government gave money to public schools so they could provide students with free meals, in a program known as universal school meals. Before that, free meals had been available only to students in need, a federal policy that applied to about 30% of public school children. When federal funding for universal school meals ended in 2022, many officials recognized the benefits of the program and wanted to continue it.

Supporters of universal school meals say providing free meals to all students, rather than some, makes it easier for kids to accept them. Since this school year began, Albuquerque Public Schools, in New Mexico, has already reported a significant increase in the number of students eating the school's free breakfast and lunch.

Universal school meals may have other benefits. Research has shown that providing free school meals can improve students' test scores and attendance. The program can also help more families afford groceries because parents don't have to set aside money for their child's lunch.

More students eat school lunch when it's free for all.

School lunch legislation is being considered in other states as well. Lawmakers in New York, Rhode Island, and Tennessee, among others, have proposed bills to fund universal meals in their public schools.

A bill has also been introduced in Congress that would fund meals for all public school students. Passing it "would make our families and communities healthier and stronger," said Kirsten Gillibrand, a US senator from New York who is a sponsor of the bill.

## THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

**"Curious deer strolls into Washington candy shop"** *UPI*

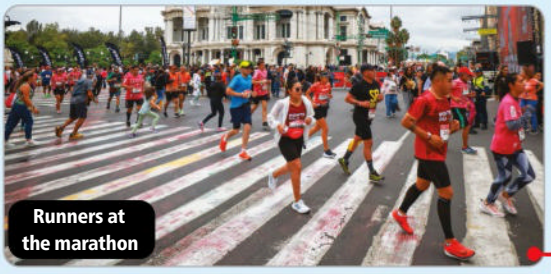
GETTY IMAGES (4); LION COUNTRY SAFARI; ON LEFT PAGE: COURTESY GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL CENTER; GETTY IMAGES (3)

# Around the world

Luis Rubiales

## Spain
### Soccer chief resigns

The president of Spain's soccer federation, Luis Rubiales, has resigned, following weeks of intense criticism after he kissed soccer player Jenni Hermoso on the lips without her permission. The unwanted kiss happened as Spain celebrated winning the FIFA Women's World Cup final on August 20. More than 80 soccer players had said they would not play for the team while Rubiales remained president.


Runners at the marathon

## Mexico City, Mexico
### Runners disqualified for cheating

About 11,000 runners were disqualified from the Mexico City Marathon for skipping parts of the 26.2-mile race. Data from electronic trackers showed that more than one third of the approximately 30,000 runners who participated missed checkpoints along the course. Runners were also accused of using cars, public transportation, and bikes during the race. Some runners said the trackers were defective.

The Grand Canal in Venice

## Venice, Italy
### City to require entrance fee

Officials in Venice, Italy, announced a plan to charge tourists an admission fee for visiting the city on certain days to reduce overcrowding. About 50,000 people live in Venice, a fragile city built on islands separated by canals, but more than 110,000 tourists visit daily during peak season. Visitors age 14 and up will have to pay $5.35 to enter, most likely starting in 2024.

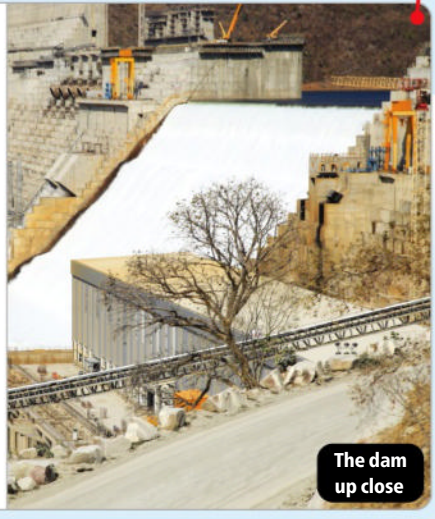
## Latvia
### Russians must take test

Many of the approximately 25,000 Russian citizens living in Latvia may have to leave if they can't pass a language test. Latvia's government, citing security concerns after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, said Russians must know Latvian as proof of loyalty to the country. More than 11,000 Russians have taken the test, with 61% failing on the first try.

Riga, Latvia's capital city

## Benishangul-Gumuz, Ethiopia
### Controversial dam complete

Abiy Ahmed, the prime minister of Ethiopia, announced that the nation has completed filling a controversial dam (water barrier). The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam was built on the Blue Nile River to create hydroelectric power, a renewable energy that turns moving water into electricity. Neighboring countries Sudan and Egypt said it will disturb the flow of the Blue Nile and Nile rivers and reduce their water supply.


The dam up close

GETTY IMAGES (7); REUTERS; ALAMY; SHUTTERSTOCK

# Around the world

The swords

## Israel
### Roman swords discovered

Researchers have found four Roman swords in a cave near the Dead Sea. Experts believe the swords were seized from the Roman army by Jewish rebels during an uprising about 1,900 years ago. The cave is cool and dry, so the swords are very well preserved. One expert, Guy Stiebel, said each sword "can tell you an entire story."

The artist paints ruins.

## The Gaza Strip
### Artist creates art from building ruins

A Palestinian artist in the Gaza Strip is using the rubble of broken buildings as a canvas for his art. Gaza, a site of military conflict between Israelis and Palestinians for many years, has extensive destruction as a result. Ayman Al-Hosari said he wants to offer hope by making broken buildings beautiful with calligraphy, a type of stylized handwriting. He told news service Al Jazeera that Gaza's people will "seek life in the midst of rubble."

The hole in the wall

## Youyu County, China
### Workers damage Great Wall

Police have arrested two construction workers who damaged the Great Wall of China to make a gap in the ancient wall bigger. It's believed that the workers used an excavator to widen a small existing gap to create a shortcut to a work site. The Great Wall stretches for thousands of miles, and the damaged section was built between 1368 and 1644. The workers have been charged with destroying a cultural relic.

Aung San Suu Kyi

## Myanmar
### Former leader denied medical care

Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's former leader, has been denied medical treatment after becoming ill in prison. Suu Kyi was arrested in February 2021, when the army took power from her government. But she spent many years in prison before that, after first being arrested in 1989. Her son told the UK newspaper *The Times* that the military is "cruel" for refusing to provide help.

## Nairobi, Kenya
### Global carbon tax proposed at summit

Leaders at Africa's first climate summit have called for a global carbon tax. Proposed at the three-day African Climate Summit, the tax would force the world's biggest producers of harmful fossil fuels—like oil and gas companies—to commit money to the developing nations most affected by their actions. The money would develop green energy, like wind farms, to combat climate change.

Climate change protesters

# Should schools require community service?

**Some people say volunteer work loses its meaning when it's mandatory.**

## What you need to know

- **Many US school districts require students to perform community service in order to graduate from high school. It's meant to encourage civic responsibility in young people.**
- **Washington, DC, and Maryland are the only places where all public schools require community service.**
- **Community service can involve volunteering at a food bank, picking up trash at a park or beach, helping older people, or collecting donations for people in need.**

**HELPING HANDS**
Over a 12-month period in 2020–2021, Americans spent about 4.1 billion hours volunteering.

Americans put in a tremendous amount of time helping others. According to a recent study, 60.7 million people in the US formally volunteered with community organizations from 2020 to 2021. Teens ages 16 to 17 had the highest rate of volunteering. Meanwhile, 124.7 million Americans reported that they informally helped other people by lending a hand to a neighbor or an organization in their community. Volunteering fosters connections and broadens young people's experiences, but some people say those positive lessons are lost when kids are forced to do it. What do you think? Should schools require community service?

### Yes—helping never hurts

The world always needs more helping hands, and students are a great resource. When they volunteer to fulfill school requirements, those hours add up for groups that desperately need help. Community service teaches kids about the world around them, helps them develop empathy, and shows them how their actions can have a positive effect on people's lives. It can also instill a lifelong desire to help others. Volunteering is a great way to explore different careers and passions. Some students may realize they love helping others and choose to pursue a profession in a field like social work or law.

### No—students are so busy

Studies show that if people feel forced to do community service, they can be less likely to choose to volunteer on their own time, which is a significant loss. If serving their community doesn't come from the heart, kids may miss out on the true value of volunteering—the feelings of accomplishment and pride. Adding service requirements to an already packed school schedule takes time away from students' other responsibilities, like homework, sports, and chores. And they may be so busy trying to finish their community service hours that they miss the chance to explore their own interests.

### YES Three reasons why schools should require community service

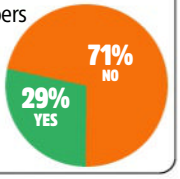
1. **So many people and organizations need help, and students can make a huge difference by giving their time.**
2. **Community service helps kids expand their worldview, learn empathy, and see the positive effects of their actions.**
3. **Many people figure out what they want to do for a career through community service.**

### NO Three reasons why schools should not require community service

1. **Requiring people to do community service can make them less likely to choose to volunteer later.**
2. **If volunteering doesn't come from the heart, students lose out on the joy and fulfillment of giving their time.**
3. **Kids are already so busy that it's not fair to make them do more.**

### LAST ISSUE'S POLL

Last issue, we asked if better movie seats should cost more. Nearly three quarters of you said moviegoers should pay the same amount for every seat.




## What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think schools should require community service or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

**The goal of the big debate** is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

# Making it to outer space

**US astronaut José Hernández's life has inspired a major motion picture.**

José Hernández knew he wanted to be an astronaut at age 10, after watching the Apollo 17 moon landing with his parents on their black-and-white TV in 1972. Now his journey to space has been made into a new film on Amazon Prime titled *A Million Miles Away*.

The movie is based on *Reaching for the Stars,* the 2012 book Hernández wrote about his life. Actor Michael Peña, who is known for his work in the *Ant Man* films, portrays Hernández in the film.

Hernández, now age 61, grew up in Stockton, California. His parents were farm workers who had immigrated to the US from Mexico. They worked long hours in the fields, and Hernández often worked with them. In pursuit of his dream to become an astronaut, he studied math and science in college and earned master's degrees in both electrical and computer engineering.

In 2001, Hernández began working as an engineer at NASA (the US space agency). In 2004, after applying 12 times, he was finally accepted into NASA's astronaut program. His first trip to space was in 2009 on the STS-128 Discovery mission, which lasted about 14 days. "Words cannot do justice to how you feel when you get up into space," Hernández told *The Week Junior*. "As I was looking down at our Earth, I felt so humbled, like the luckiest man on Earth."

With *A Million Miles Away*, Hernández hopes audiences "realize the American dream is alive and well." His message for young people with big dreams is that with family, education, and determination, "the sky is not the limit, space is."

José Hernández

**DID YOU KNOW?**
A school for grades K–8 in San Jose, California, is named after José Hernández.

# Music to help others

Stella Rose Bennett, the 23-year-old pop singer from New Zealand known as "BENEE," has created a song titled "Bagels" that is designed to calm feelings of worry or fear. She worked with top scientists at the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand to incorporate musical elements that would relax the brain and nervous system. The proceeds from "Bagels" will go to Youthline, a charity in New Zealand that provides mental health services to teenagers. "We all need to find what helps us," BENEE told *Rolling Stone*.

BENEE

Charles Martinet

# Voice of Mario logs off

Charles Martinet, the actor who voiced the beloved video game character Mario for nearly 30 years, is stepping down. Martinet, age 67, began voicing Mario for the gaming company Nintendo in 1996, starting with Super Mario 64. He has also voiced other famous characters in the games, including Mario's brother Luigi. Martinet said he will now become a "Mario ambassador," traveling around the world to promote Mario and Nintendo. The company said in a statement, "It has been an honor working with Charles to help bring Mario to life for so many years."

## OVERHEARD

**"Speak your mind and don't hold your tongue."**

Elizabeth Francis, the second oldest person in the US, who recently celebrated her 114th birthday, shares her advice on living a long life.

AP PHOTO; AMAZON STUDIOS; GETTY IMAGES (2); EMMANUEL RODRIGUEZ/LONGEVIQUEST

**FUN FACT**
Some species of parrotfish create a bubble of mucus to sleep in, like a protective sleeping bag.

A trumpetfish and a parrotfish

## Whale research news

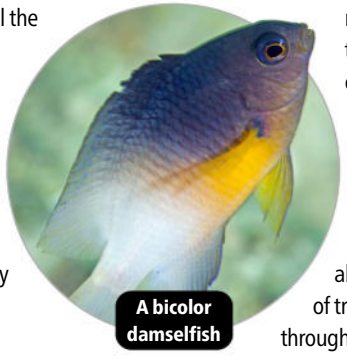
**Researchers have found that the pygmy right whale, the world's smallest baleen whale, swims in the same area for an entire year. A recent study discovered that pygmy right whales eat food from a very specific area year-round. This is unusual behavior for baleen whales, which usually travel long distances to feed.**

A pygmy right whale

# The predatory fish that hides to hunt

Creatures in the wild have developed many techniques for sneaking up on their prey. One species, the trumpetfish, has discovered the ultimate disguise: hiding behind larger fish to conceal themselves until the time is right to strike.

Trumpetfish are predators that live in coral reefs in tropical or subtropical regions of the ocean. They are long and thin and can grow to a maximum length of about 2.6 feet. They typically feed on small fishes and crustaceans, such as shrimp.



A bicolor damselfish

Trumpetfish have been seen swimming upright to blend in with coral as they hunt their prey. They have also been observed swimming alongside much larger fish, such as parrotfish, which eat plants and don't feed on other fish. After witnessing this behavior, a team of researchers wanted to test whether the method really helps trumpetfish catch their prey effectively.

In the ocean off the Caribbean island of Curaçao, the scientists set up an underwater pulley system. Using this setup, they were able to move 3D plastic models of trumpetfish and parrotfish through the water.

The fish models moved through multiple colonies of damselfish, a prey commonly eaten by trumpetfish. When the trumpetfish model moved past, the damselfish first inspected the model before very quickly swimming back to shelter. When a model parrotfish moved past the colonies, the damselfish were less likely to flee.

The scientists then tested the reaction when the trumpetfish model was attached to the parrotfish model. They found that the damselfish reacted the same way they did when they saw only the parrotfish. This shows that the trumpetfish's technique of concealing itself is a successful way to catch prey.

Researchers found that the trumpetfish used this technique more often in damaged reefs that provided less natural cover for their hunts. Studying this behavior is helping scientists to understand how the destruction of coral reefs, caused by rising ocean temperatures, is

## PLACE OF THE WEEK

### Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico

**Carlsbad Caverns is a national park made up of about 120 limestone caves in southeastern New Mexico. It is the longest collection of caves people can get to in North America, with more than 30 miles of underground trails that go past stunning cave formations. Above the caves is the Chihuahuan desert, which has the largest variety of cactus plants in the world. The park is an important habitat for cougars and cave swallows, and many insects, snakes, and lizards also live there. Its most famous residents, Brazilian free-tailed bats, fly out of the caves at night.**

A greater earless lizard at the park

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Bison have poor eyesight, but they have excellent hearing and a great sense of smell.

A bison

# Bison are being introduced to the Arctic

This summer, researchers introduced bison to the Ingilor Nature Park in the Russian Arctic. The 12 plains bison were transported from Denmark as part of a project to alter the local ecosystem (group of plants and animals that affect one another). The scientists hope to re-create the ecosystem that existed in the late Pleistocene epoch, 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago.

During the Pleistocene, the Russian Arctic was a cold, dry grassland. Large herbivores (plant eaters), such as woolly mammoths and steppe bison, grazed on the grasses and nourished the soil with their dung. A thick underground layer of frozen soil, called permafrost, stored gases that contribute to the warming of the planet.

When the epoch ended, the climate became warmer and wetter. Shrubs and trees covered the area, and the mammoths and bison eventually died out. Now the permafrost has begun to melt, releasing the harmful gases. Scientists are introducing the new bison and other herbivores so they will trample snow, eat leafy plants, and help to turn the region back into a grassland. This change could cool it down and stop the permafrost from melting.

## Animal of the week: Masai giraffe

The baby giraffe

**The Franklin Park Zoo in Massachusetts recently welcomed a male Masai giraffe, born to parents Amari and Chad. The calf is 6 feet tall and weighs 184 pounds. Masai giraffes are endangered, and the zoo is taking part in a program to save them.**

- **LIFE SPAN:** 10 to 15 years
- **HABITAT:** Savannas in Tanzania and Kenya
- **DIET:** Leaves, bark, twigs, flowers, and fruit
- **SIZE:** Up to 17 feet tall and 2,600 pounds
- **FUN FACT:** Masai giraffes can moo, hiss, roar, and whistle to communicate.

## Good week / Bad week

One of the species

### Moles

Scientists have identified two new species of moles that live in the mountains of eastern Turkey. The previously unknown species can survive in extreme heat and cold. This discovery raised the number of known Eurasian mole species to 18.

### African penguins

Scientists believe African penguins could become extinct by 2035 due to environmental changes and overfishing of their prey. Fewer than 11,000 breeding pairs are left in the wild, mostly on islands near Namibia and South Africa.

## ASK AN EXPERT

## "Why do my cat's pupils grow bigger when they're playing?" Georgia, 8, Colorado

**Melissa Bain**
Professor, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

Pupils can change size for many reasons. There are changes in cats' bodies when they are excited or upset that can cause their pupils to be different sizes. They often get big when there are a lot of emotions or when cats are really excited, which can include when they are playing.

**Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine at vetmed.ucdavis.edu.**

GETTY IMAGES (3); UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH; ALISA PARTLAN; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY

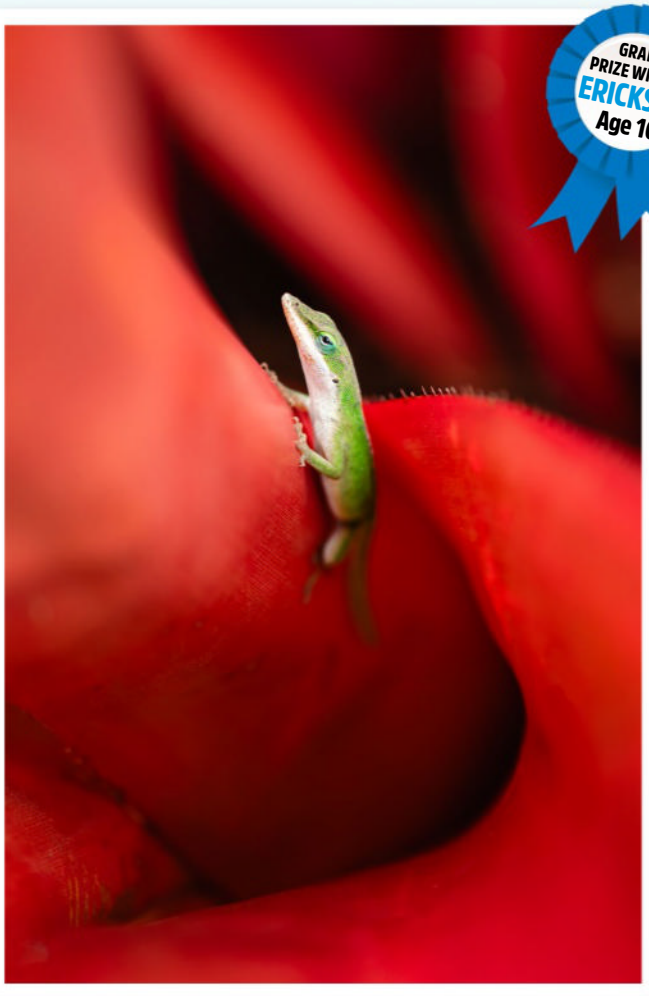
# Our contest winners!

For *The Week Junior*'s third annual Nature Photo Contest, we invited readers to submit photographs they have taken of the natural world. We received a record number of entries—more than 1,900! All the images demonstrated incredible creativity, curiosity, and skill.

The contest was divided into two categories: one for children ages 8 to 10 and one for ages 11 to 14. It was judged by Editor-in-Chief Andrea Barbalich, Creative Director Dean Abatemarco, Photo Editors Nataki Hewling and Lily Alt, and award-winning professional photographers Jesse Burke, Angela Ledyard, and Ami Vitale.

The judges faced the difficult challenge of selecting 10 finalists in each age category, followed by a grand prize winner and two runners-up in each group. "All the submissions were so very impressive!" Ledyard said. "What an amazing range of entries," Abatemarco added. "I could see how much the photographers love and respect nature and wildlife."

GRAND PRIZE WINNER ERICKSON Age 10



**▶"Waiting for Breakfast"**

**"The vibrant contrast between the emerald hues of the anole lizard and the fiery red tones of the bromeliad plant creates a captivating visual of these two complementary colors. It's like a hidden world of colors and nature coming together in a playful hide-and-seek game!" —*Angela Ledyard***

RUNNER-UP FLORA Age 8

**▲"Ghost Glass Frog"**

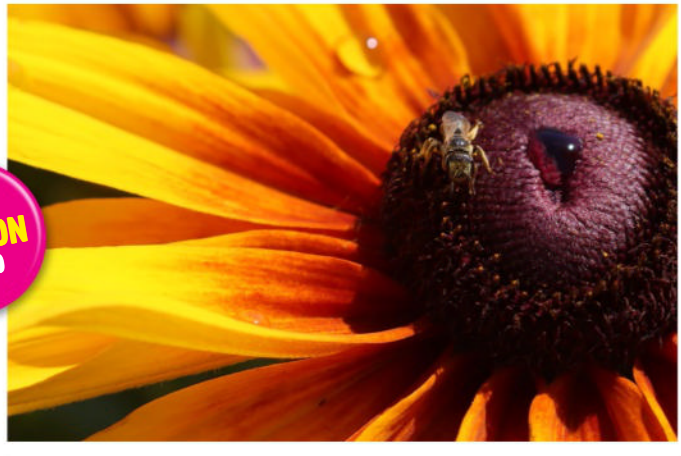
**"I love the use of the empty black background to emphasize the frog's upper body outline. It makes the eyes really pop out! Also, the attention to color and shape in the frog and how it matches the plants is incredible. Beautiful shot." —*Jesse Burke***

**▶"Walking on Water"**

**"These flamingoes are like ballet dancers on a shimmering stage. The photographer captures the gentle morning sunlight on their pink feathers, making them glow like cotton candy. It shows the beauty and grace of these elegant birds." —*Angela Ledyard***

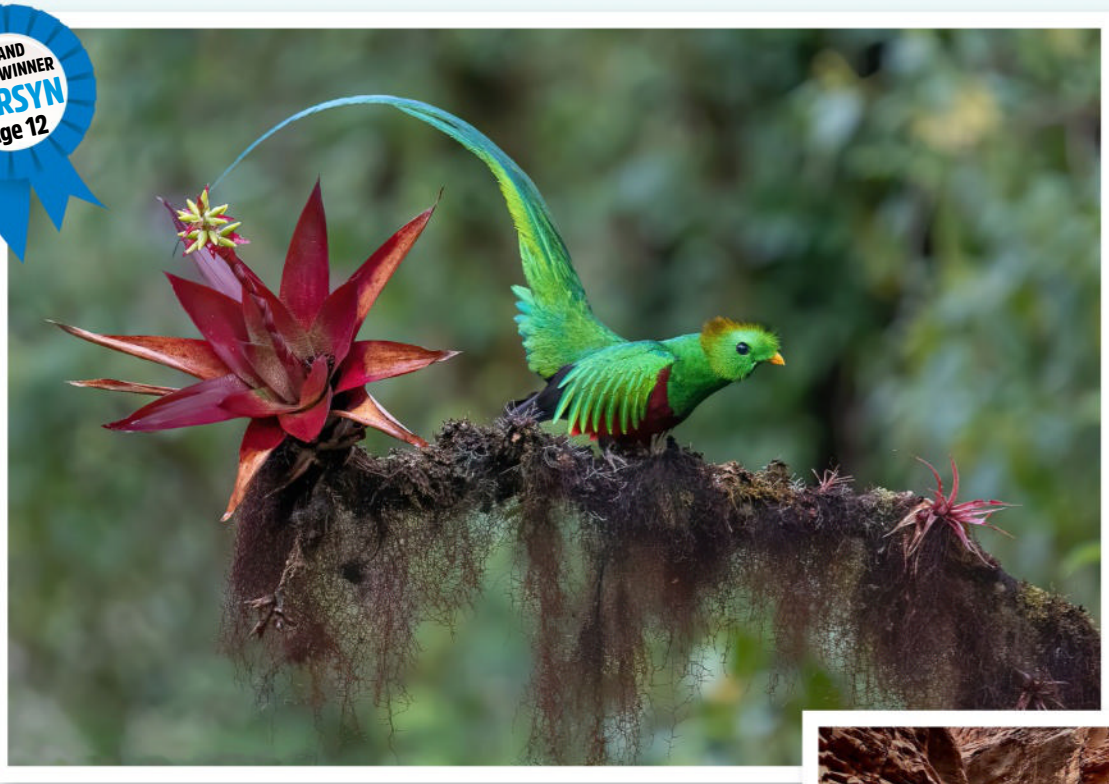
RUNNER-UP ARJUN Age 10

# Nature Photo Contest AGES 8–10



# Nature Photo Contest AGES 11–14

GRAND PRIZE WINNER
KARSYN
Age 12

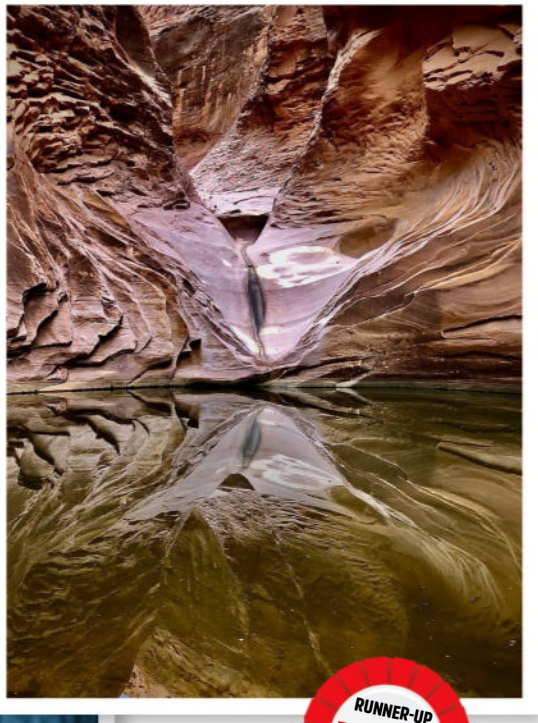


**◀"Resplendent Quetzal"**
"The incredible color and timing of this photograph cannot be denied! The use of red and green—naturally opposing colors—works so well to make this photo really pop and to keep your eyes on the subjects. The way the bird is positioned is almost as if it's dancing on the branch. Wow!" *—Jesse Burke*

**▶"Canyon Reflection"**
"This photo beautifully captures the unique and rugged shapes carved by nature over time in the canyon walls. The canyon's striking features are mirrored in the calm standing water below, creating a mesmerizing reflection that doubles the beauty of the scene." *—Angela Ledyard*

**▼ "Who You Lookin' At?"**
"Barred owls are most active during the night and early morning hours. Photographing them in low-light conditions can be challenging. This is a fine image and shows amazing patience and observation skills by the photographer." *—Ami Vitale*

RUNNER-UP
NOAH
Age 11



RUNNER-UP
BERKELEY
Age 11

# Nature Photo Contest AGES 11-14

FINALIST
OLIVER
Age 12

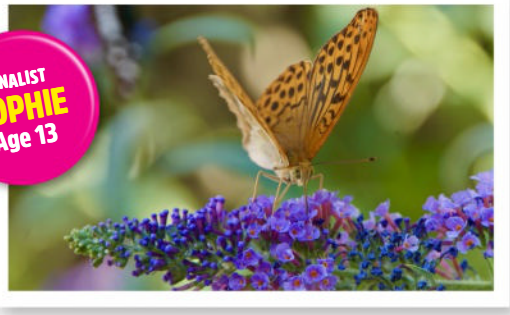
FINALIST
LEO
Age 14

FINALIST
MAE
Age 12

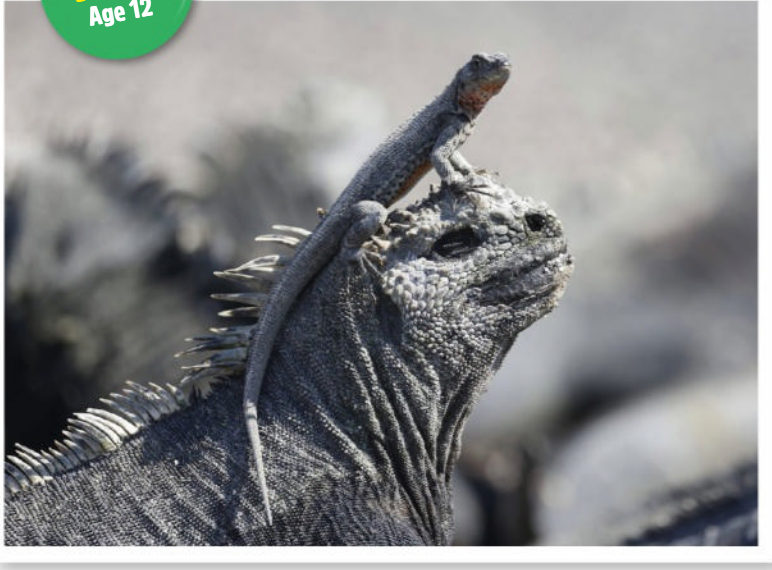
FINALIST
TAVO
Age 12

FINALIST
CIAN
Age 12

FINALIST
SOPHIE
Age 13



FINALIST
VARUN
Age 12



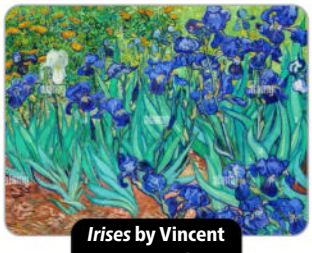
The study took note of what kind of art babies looked at longest.

# Babies prefer the same art as adults

A new study has found that when it comes to visual art, babies seem to like the same things adults do. The findings suggest that appreciating paintings is natural, rather than something humans learn over time.

Scientists from the University of Sussex, in the UK, conducted a study using artwork by Vincent van Gogh. The Dutch painter lived in the 1800s and is famous for using bright colors, thick paint, and bold brush strokes.

Study participants included 25 babies between the ages of 4 and 8 months and 25 adults ages 18 to 43. Researchers showed them 45 pairs of van Gogh's landscape paintings on iPads. The infants were sitting on a parent's lap and shown the paintings for five seconds at a time.


*Irises* by Vincent van Gogh

The team noted which of the two paintings the babies looked at longer. That was determined to be the artwork the babies "preferred." The adults were asked which painting they liked more. The team found that babies looked longer at the same paintings adults liked most. These were paintings that had vibrant colors and more variation in the range of color and brightness.

Philip McAdams, who worked on the study, told *The Guardian* newspaper that one reason babies liked those artworks could be that their eyesight isn't fully developed. They can see paintings better when they have more contrast (easily noticeable differences), which means the brain finds it easier to process what the eyes are seeing. The painting babies and adults liked most was *Green Corn Stalks*, which shows a golden and green field with red poppies.

There were also some differences in tastes. Babies favored paintings that included many edges—such as the edges of leaves and branches—but adults did not. Babies also preferred images with curved lines. McAdams said that was not surprising "because a face has lots of curves on it, and babies have this very strong bias from the moment they are born to look at faces."

Babies also spent the longest amount of time looking at images that showed things they could recognize, like a stretch of sky. More studies will be needed to determine whether the babies actually like the paintings or just find them more interesting to look at.

## The benefits of arts education

A study has found that learning about the arts in school has a big effect on young people's education and social and emotional lives. Scientists at Rice University gathered data from 10,548 students at 42 K–12 schools in Houston, Texas. Students in the study were exposed to visual arts, music, dance, and theater. They attended performances, met artists who came to their schools, and studied art in class.

Academically, the students showed a 13% increase in writing test scores. They also showed an 8% increase in their level of compassion for others and were more aware of how other people were feeling. Some students were also more engaged with school, and 5.7% of them were more interested in attending college.

# New deep sea species is discovered

Scientists have discovered a sea creature with a fun name and an unusual appearance. The Antarctic strawberry feather star (Promachocrinus fragarius) is named for its resemblance to a strawberry and has 20 tentacles that are up to 8 inches long. It uses its arms to propel itself through the water.

The strawberry feather star is one of seven species from the cold waters around Antarctica that were recently identified. All of them were previously thought to be the same species, known as the Antarctic feather star (Promachocrinus kerguelensis) but are now known to be different types of the feather star.

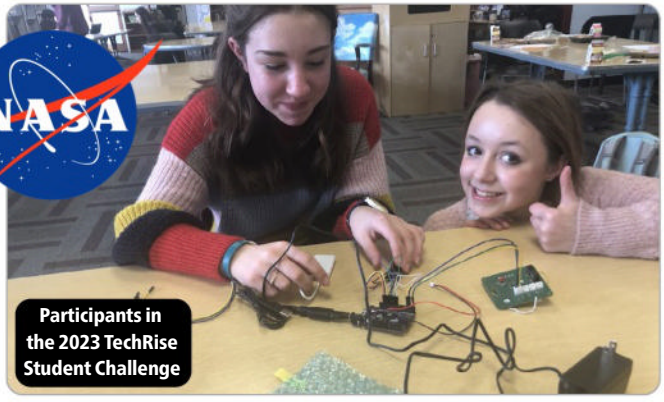
The creatures are crinoids, a type of marine invertebrate (animal without a backbone) that includes sea lilies and sea feathers. Crinoids have existed for more than 250 million years.

**MORE TO FIND**
Of the 2 million marine species believed to live in the oceans, about 10% have been discovered.

Scientists recently gathered DNA (the chemical that carries all the information about a living thing) from more than 2,000 feather star specimens collected over a period of several years. They analyzed their DNA and studied their physical characteristics to differentiate among the species.

Six of the species have 20 arms, some up to 8 inches long. The other two species have 10 arms. They all live between 330 and 3,330 feet below the ocean's surface. Their colors range from yellow-brown to the purple and red mix of the Antarctic strawberry feather star.

A strawberry feather star


Participants in the 2023 TechRise Student Challenge

## NASA calls for student submissions

NASA, the US space agency, is inviting students in grades 6–12 to submit ideas for the 2024 TechRise Student Challenge. Winners will design, build, and conduct a flight experiment that will launch into space and gather data on Earth's atmosphere, surface, and climate.

The goal of the challenge, NASA said, is to inspire "a deeper understanding of space exploration, Earth observation, coding, electronics, and the value of test data." Previous student experiments, which launched in 2023, included the study of solar panels in space, asteroid dust, and the concentration of microplastics in the atmosphere.

The application deadline is October 20, 2023. Winning teams will receive $1,500, support from NASA scientists, and a spot on a high-altitude balloon or rocket-powered flight. Find out more at futureengineers.org/nasatechrise.

AMAZING INVENTION

## A thin and flexible solar panel

EnFoil panels

**Engineers in Belgium have designed thin, flexible, and durable solar panels for use on a variety of surfaces. Solar panels collect sunlight and convert it into energy, such as electricity and heat. But traditional solar panels come in specific sizes and shapes that limit their use.**

**EnFoil's ultra-thin panels are only one millimeter thick. They can be used on surfaces like the sides and roofs of trucks, pool covers, and tiled roofs. Expanded opportunities for solar power will help reduce people's reliance on harmful fossil fuels.**

TWITTER/@PILTOVERMISFIT; NASA/TECHRISE; ALAMY; ENERGYVILLE; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY

**WOW!** A record-setting 957,387 fans attended the US Open in New York this year.

Coco Gauff

Novak Djokovic

## Major sports milestone

This year is the 50th anniversary of the US Open becoming the first sporting event to award the same prize money to men and women. The tennis center where the US Open is held is named after Billie Jean King (above), a US tennis star and leader in the fight for equality.

# Exciting victories in US Open tennis

The US Open tennis tournament took place from August 28 through September 10 in Queens, New York. It is one of the four most important tennis competitions in the world, known as the Grand Slams. The men's and women's singles finals ended with historic wins.

In the women's final on September 9, American Coco Gauff, who was seeded (ranked) sixth at the Open, beat second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, 2–6, 6–3, 6–2. It was the first Grand Slam title for Gauff, who is 19 years old. She is the youngest American to win the US Open since Serena Williams did it at age 17 in 1999 and the first American to win the tournament since 2017.

Margaret Court

Sabalenka started the final strong and won the first set, but Gauff settled in and came back to win the second set with support from the crowd. She then won the first four games of the third set and held on to clinch the title. After the match, she thanked her family and team as well as prior female champions who paved the way for her. "I hope that another girl can see this and believe that they can do it," she said. "Hopefully their name can be on this trophy too."

The next day, second seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia beat third seed Daniil Medvedev of Russia, 6–3, 7–6, 6–3. It was the 24th Grand Slam title of Djokovic's career. He now shares the record for the most Grand Slam titles in tennis history with Margaret Court, an Australian who played in the 1960s and 1970s. With the win, Djokovic, age 36, became the oldest US Open men's champion in the Open Era, which began in 1968.

The final was a rematch of the 2021 US Open final, which Medvedev won. After losing the first set this year, the Russian looked like he might take the second set, but an unstoppable Djokovic won it in a tiebreak. He then coasted to victory in the third.

Gauff wasn't the only American who played well at this year's Open. Madison Keys made it to the women's semifinals but lost to Sabalenka. On the men's side, Ben Shelton, Francis Tiafoe, and Taylor Fritz made the quarterfinals. Shelton, who was unseeded at the tournament, advanced to the semis, where he was defeated by Djokovic.

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**The University of Texas visited the University of Alabama on September 9 and beat them, 34–24, ending Alabama's streak of 21 straight wins at home. In another game that day, the University of Colorado beat their rival, the University of Nebraska, 36–14. Colorado quarterback Shedeur Sanders threw for two touchdowns and rushed for another. It was the team's second upset victory of the season.**

Jewell Loyd

### BASKETBALL

**On September 10, the last day of the WNBA's regular season, the Seattle Storm's Jewell Loyd set a new WNBA single season scoring record with 939 points in all. She broke a record of 919 that was set days earlier by Breanna Stewart of the New York Liberty.**

### SOCCER

**The North Carolina Courage beat Racing Louisville, 2–0, to win the NWSL Challenge Cup, an in-season tournament that ended September 9.**

**FUN FACT** For the first time in 50 years, NFL players are now allowed to wear the number 0 on their jerseys.

George Karlaftis of the Kansas City Chiefs, left, and Penei Sewell of the Detroit Lions

# NFL regular season games begin

The NFL (National Football League) has kicked off its 2023 regular season. The first game was played on September 7, with the rest of the games following on September 10 and 11.

The season began with the Detroit Lions beating the defending Super Bowl champions, the Kansas City Chiefs, 21–20. The Chiefs led 14–7 after the first half, but early in the third quarter, the Lions returned an interception for a touchdown and tied the score. After the Chiefs retook the lead, the Lions scored again with seven minutes left in the game. The Lions defense then prevented Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes from making a final comeback.

One exciting matchup on September 10 was between the Los Angeles Chargers and the Miami Dolphins. Miami won, 36–34, but there were eight lead changes during the game. The last one took place with less than four minutes left in the fourth quarter, when Miami quarterback Tua Tagovailoa led his team on a drive that ended with a four-yard touchdown pass to Tyreek Hill.

In the first Monday Night Football game of the season, the New York Jets beat the Buffalo Bills, 22–16, in overtime. It was the highly anticipated debut game for new Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers, a star who had been with the Green Bay Packers for 18 seasons. The Jets have not made the NFL playoffs since 2010, and Rodgers brought the team hope for a new era of success. Less than four minutes into the game, however, he injured his left leg and had to leave the field. The next day, the Jets said he had a torn Achilles tendon and would be out for the rest of the season.

## COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Chris Skelton**

Organization: **Rye Youth Soccer**

**"Coach Chris is the best coach ever because he always keeps us going, even when we are losing. More than once we came back from being down 0–2 to take a 3–2 lead. Also, during practice he teaches us how to support one another with our strengths and let our teammates fill in our weaknesses. He always makes us play as a team, too. I've known him since I was 5, and I'm still marveling at how much he can motivate us."** Sam, 9, Connecticut

**To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.**

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

# Hannah Davey

**AGE: 23 SPORT: FIELD HOCKEY**
**TEAM: PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**

**Sports switch** I'm from England, and I started playing field hockey around age 4. It was the sport everyone did in my area. But from 4 to 13, tennis was my main sport. I was ranked in the top 10 in my country, but I absolutely hated it—I just wanted to play hockey. At around 13 years old, I started playing it seriously.

**Group effort** What I love about field hockey is that you win and lose as a team. With tennis, it's quite lonely on the court. I always preferred doubles to singles.

**Inspiring athlete** Tennis star Serena Williams was a big, big role model of mine. She showed younger women that it was good to be competitive.

**Cultural differences** Compared to England, sports are a lot more intense here in the US. Collegiate sports are like being on a professional team. The coaching and playing styles are different, too. Also, when I played in England, everyone was pretty blunt and brutal if you made a mistake. Here, feedback is more sensitive.

**Top moments** We played in the national championship in 2019, and that was amazing. But personally, being named the Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year in 2022 was pretty special. I had moved from playing forward/midfield to defense, where I'd never played before.

**New goal** I graduated in May and plan to keep playing field hockey in the top league in England.

**Wise words** If you don't enjoy one sport, find another one. When you enjoy playing something, you're probably going to get better at it.

GETTY IMAGES (2); PRINCETON ATHLETICS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (5)

**DID YOU KNOW?**
At age 18, Bertie Gregory was named Youth Outdoor Photographer of the Year by a UK magazine.

Behind the scenes of *Animals Up Close with Bertie Gregory*

# Series gets up close with animals

**In a new show, wildlife filmmaker Bertie Gregory travels around the world to highlight amazing creatures.**

A new National Geographic series starring award-winning British wildlife filmmaker Bertie Gregory is giving viewers a look at animals like never before. In *Animals Up Close with Bertie Gregory*, he visits hard-to-reach environments and follows creatures that live there. The series is now on Disney+.

A 2022 series, titled *Epic Adventures with Bertie Gregory*, highlighted gatherings of wild animals. While making that show, Gregory found that the most interesting stories came from following one animal or family, he told *The Week Junior*. Those experiences inspired *Animals Up Close*. He said that by focusing on one creature, "you get invested in the character and they take you on this emotional roller coaster."

Bertie Gregory

Each episode of the show takes place in a different location. While in the Patagonia region of South America, Gregory and his team followed a puma for about 15 miles in her mountain habitat. He told *The Week Junior* they nicknamed her Hollywood since she seemed to know how to look good on camera.

Gregory said he likes to film animal action "like a live sports match," with cameras capturing multiple angles at the same time. For example, to cover a group of killer whales that hunt seals in the Arctic Ocean, he used a drone camera for a view from above and a camera hung over the side of the boat for low angles.

One goal of the series is to get viewers excited about the natural world and help them see the impact humans have on it. Gregory discusses human threats but shares conservation success stories, too. The episode set in Botswana shows scientists working to protect African wild dogs. "We celebrate the times humans got it right," said Gregory, "and hopefully it will inspire people to do more of that, wherever they live."

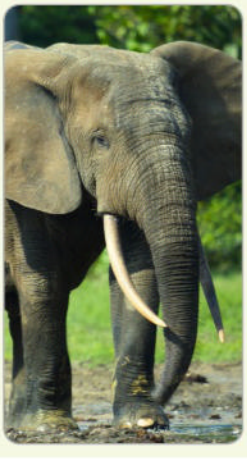
## 3 animals in the show

### Galapagos sharks

In the Galapagos Islands, Gregory went diving to film this species. They can be up to 12 feet long and have several rows of sharp teeth. To avoid scaring the sharks away, the crew used scuba tanks that don't produce bubbles.

### Forest elephants

The team traveled to Africa to film the largest gathering of forest elephants on Earth. They camped in a 120-foot-high treehouse and set up invisible laser cameras in the forest to spot rare tusker elephants.



### Jellyfish

Off the coast of Raja Ampat, a group of islands in Indonesia, Gregory swam with jellyfish while searching for devil rays. Viewers will see them blooming and learn why their population is growing.

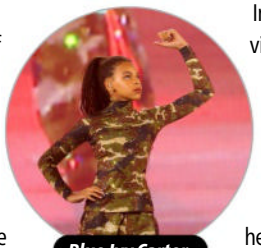
Beyoncé on tour

# Beyoncé's tour is a huge success

Since July, pop and R&B star Beyoncé has been on the North American leg of her Renaissance tour. Fans have been packing stadiums to see her, and the tour is a major success. It is expected to earn more than $500 million, which is more than any of the singer's past tours.

Beyoncé, whose last name is Knowles, began her career as part of the popular group Destiny's Child and released her first solo album in 2003. Over the years, she has had 21 singles reach the Top 10 of Billboard's Hot 100 list, which tracks the most popular singles in the US. She also has been nominated for 88 Grammys (a top music award), the most of any female artist. Earlier this year, she won her 32nd Grammy, a record for anyone, male or female.

The tour began in Stockholm, Sweden, in May and traveled around Europe before coming to North America. At her concerts, she performs songs from her 2022 album *Renaissance* along with some of her classic hits, including "Run the World (Girls)" and "Crazy in Love." She is backed up by 21 dancers, including her daughter Blue Ivy Carter, age 11, who has performed several times.


Blue Ivy Carter

Inspired by the fashion in Beyoncé's visual album (a music-filled film) for *Renaissance*, concertgoers have been coming to shows dressed in silver and cowboy hats. Last month, on social media and on her website, Beyoncé specifically asked fans to help her celebrate her September 4 birthday by "wearing your most fabulous silver fashions" to some upcoming shows. She wrote, "We'll surround ourselves in a shimmering human disco ball each night. Everybody mirroring each other's joy." The current leg of the tour ends in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 1.

## READER RECOMMENDS

**The Muppets Mayhem** (*Disney+*)

**"This is one of my favorite new shows. The characters always make my mom and me laugh. The show is about The Muppets' band, Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem. They're trying to make a hit album, and a lot of funny things happen along the way. The main character is Nora, who works for their record company. My favorite character is Animal, and my mom used to have an Animal puppet when she was my age watching *The Muppet Show*, so this brings up good memories for her. You'll love the music, too. This is the one intro song I never skip!"** Marlon, 8, New York

**Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.**

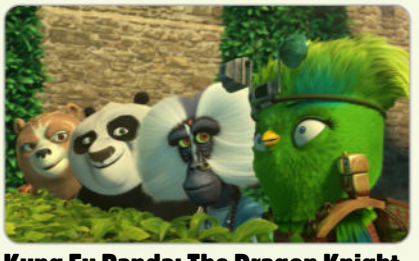
## THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

### Tiny Toons Looniversity (Max)

This new series is a reboot of the award-winning 1990s show *Tiny Toon Adventures*. It follows bunnies Babs and Buster as they head to college at Acme Looniversity. They'll make new friends and get lessons in silliness from professors that are classic Looney Tunes characters.

### Lang Lang Plays Disney (Disney+)

When world-renowned Chinese pianist Lang Lang performed a one-night-only concert at the Royal Albert Hall in England, it was filmed for this special. During the concert, he performs classical versions of Disney songs. Viewers will also hear about his career and love of Disney films.



### Kung Fu Panda: The Dragon Knight (Netflix)

The series based on the hit *Kung Fu Panda* animated film franchise is back for a third season. This time, lovable warrior panda Po and his new partner, elite knight Wandering Blade, are on a hilarious adventure to retrieve magical weapons that could destroy the world.

GETTY IMAGES (2); DISNEY+ (2); WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY; NETFLIX; ON LEFT PAGE: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FOR DISNEY+/JAMES BRICKELL; NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FOR DISNEY+/SPENCER MILLSAP; NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FOR DISNEY+/BERTIE GREGORY (3)

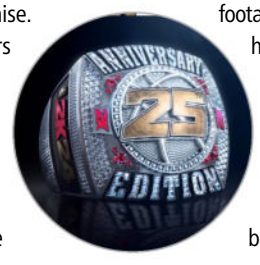
**DID YOU KNOW?**
The first professional basketball league was formed in 1898.

Kobe Bryant in NBA 2K24

# New edition of NBA game

NBA 2K24 is a new pro basketball video game. It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation platforms, Xbox systems, and PC. It is the official video game of the NBA (National Basketball Association) and WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association).

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the NBA 2K franchise. The new game celebrates the legacy of star Los Angeles Lakers player Kobe Bryant, who died in 2020. He was a five-time NBA champion, and NBA 2K24 features a section devoted to his greatest moves and moments. Although Bryant is on the cover of the game's main edition, there is a WNBA edition that features New York Liberty star Sabrina Ionescu on the cover. This is only the third time a WNBA player has been on the cover of an NBA 2K game. She played the video game growing up and said she "never thought it would be possible" to be on the cover one day.




NBA 2K24 is filled with new and improved features, including how real the players look and move. The game was built with a new technology that turns footage from real games into action on the virtual court. Changes also have been made to the popular MyCAREER mode, where gamers create players and guide them from draft night to the Hall of Fame. Part of the fun is honing your skills with three-on-three street pickup games. If you're into team play, MyTEAM allows you to build a lineup of All-Stars for one-off games. Watching the best NBA and WNBA players go head-to-head is exciting, but there's nothing like being able to control them yourself.

## PODCAST OF THE WEEK

### WHAT IF WORLD—STORIES FOR KIDS

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music

What if everyone dressed only in candy? What if there were a never-ending bowl of ice cream? Questions like those, which come from listeners, are the inspiration for this storytelling podcast. In each episode, host Mr. Eric tells a hilarious and touching tale based on an imaginative idea.

## CHANNEL OF THE WEEK

### PONGFINITY

youtube.com/@Pongfinity

The stars of this YouTube channel were once part of Finland's national table tennis (Ping-Pong) team. They create videos of themselves playing exciting games, demonstrating epic tricks, taking on challenges, and trying out new Ping-Pong inventions. You can watch and learn or just enjoy.

## WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

### POKÉMON FOSSIL MUSEUM

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-PokeFossils

This site lets visitors explore a special museum exhibit that has been popular in Japan and is based on the Pokémon franchise. The show imagines that the fictional creatures are real and compares them with actual dinosaur fossils using illustrations and life-size sculptures.

TAKE-TWO INTERACTIVE SOFTWARE, INC. (2); WHAT IF WORLD; PONGFINITY VIA YOUTUBE; MATTERPORT

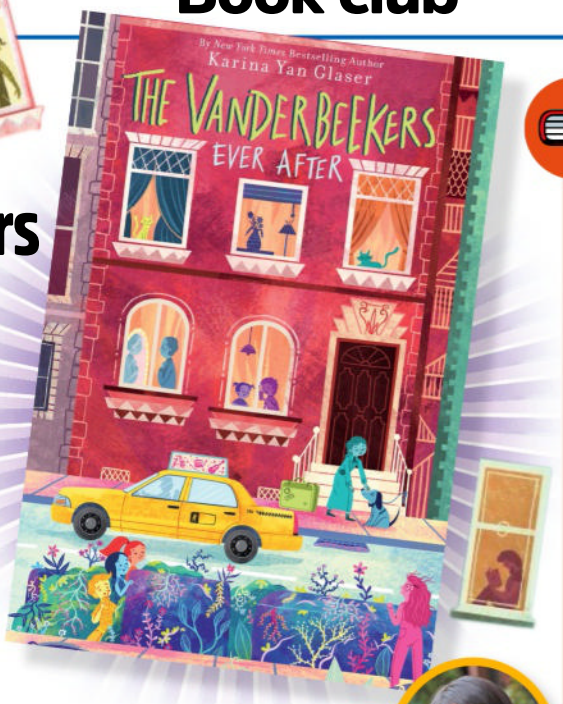
BOOK OF THE WEEK

# The Vanderbeekers Ever After

*By Karina Yan Glaser*

(Clarion Books)

This is the seventh and final book in the popular Vanderbeekers series, and it begins a few weeks after the family returns from their road trip to California. The five siblings are excited because their Aunt Penny is coming to visit, and they know their landlord Mr. B is going to ask her to marry him. Despite a few hiccups, the marriage proposal is beautiful, and Aunt Penny and Mr. B hope to get married in a few months. The family is busy planning the wedding when Laney, the youngest sibling, is diagnosed with leukemia (a type of blood cancer). Her siblings rally around her by trying to make her laugh, knitting her caps, and recruiting therapy dogs to visit her and the other children in the hospital. Her brother, Oliver, especially finds a way to show Laney how much he cares. As the wedding grows closer, will Laney be well enough to attend? This novel shows how kindness and friendship can help someone through hard times. Although some parts of the book are sad, the best-selling series concludes on a hopeful note.




ASK THE AUTHOR

## Karina Yan Glaser

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

**Why did you include a wedding in the book?**
I've been writing about this family for years, and it felt like a good way to end the series.

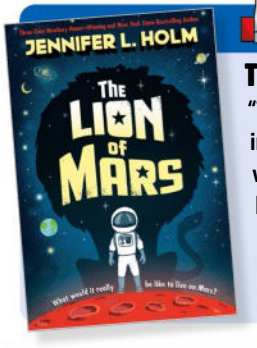
**What do you hope the books inspire?**
I hope kids realize that when people come together, they can get through tough times.

**Which character grows the most in this book?**
I think Laney grows the most in this book. I've tried to give each of the five kids equal footing in the series.

**Would you ever move from New York City?**
No, I would stay here in Harlem, but I would also love to have a place in nature with hiking paths right outside my front door.

**What will you miss most about the Vanderbeekers?**
Everything! Saying goodbye to the characters is bittersweet.

READER RECOMMENDS



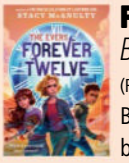

**The Lion of Mars** *By Jennifer L. Holm*

**"This is an exciting and mysterious science fiction book. It takes place in the year 2091. The story focuses on Bell, who has lived on Mars his whole life in the American Colony. He is the youngest of the kids that live there, and the other kids don't like him very much. When the adults come down with a disease, will Bell and the other kids be able to save them and their own futures?"** Cameron, 13, Colorado

**Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.**

## 4 books set in magical schools

Watch out, Hogwarts! These picks also contain spellbinding academies.




**Forever Twelve**
*By Stacy McAnulty*
(Random House Books for Young Readers)
Because of a curse, Abigail has been 12 years old for more than 200 years. At boarding school, she teams up with two students to solve a mystery. The chapters are told from alternating points of view. The first in The Evers series, this book will be published on October 3. *Ages 8–12*

**Skandar and the Unicorn Thief**
*By A.F. Steadman*
(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
At this novel's magical training school, students can take a test to become a unicorn rider. Skandar wants to pass, but he's prevented from completing the exam. Later that day, a mysterious person offers him a ride to the island where the unicorns are—and he can't resist the offer. *Ages 8–12*

**A Taste of Magic**
*By J. Elle*
(Bloomsbury Children's Books)
After learning that she's a witch, Kyana takes magic lessons at a school hidden in the back of a beauty shop. She loves making potions but is having a hard time keeping her skills a secret from her best friend. Then the school loses funding and there's a chance that Kyana's magic will be taken away. Can she help save it? *Ages 8–12*

**Witches of Brooklyn: Spell of a Time**
*By Sophie Escabasse*
(Random House Graphic)
The fourth book in this popular graphic novel series starts when school is back in session. Effie is learning new magic skills. She can now understand the conversations of seagulls! They're talking about a mermaid they found. Effie and her fellow witches plan to save the mermaid by going back in time. *Ages 8–12*

BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: COURTESY OF KARINA YAN GLASER

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Researchers have found that more than 65 animal species—including seals, cows, and dogs—have their own form of laughter.

# Perform stand-up comedy

## Gain confidence and make people laugh with this hobby.

Stand-up is a type of comedy in which someone performs a series of jokes in front of a live audience. Kids can create a stand-up comedy act to perform for family and friends or at a school or community talent show. Through stand-up, you get to be creative, boost your confidence, and polish your public-speaking skills. Here are some tips to help you get started.

### Get inspired

A good first step in stand-up is watching other comedians. With an adult's help, you can find some kid-friendly comedians on YouTube or on streaming services like Netflix and Hulu. (Some family-friendly comedians to check out together might be Jim Gaffigan, Anjelah Johnson, and Preacher Lawson.) Pay attention to what they do during their routine and what kinds of jokes work.

### Write your material

To begin writing jokes, start brainstorming topics. Many comedians talk about their personal experiences or make humorous observations about popular topics like sports or movies. Think about who your audience will be and what will be relatable to them. For example, your friends would probably understand your funny observations about middle school, but your family may not. When you have an idea for a joke, approach it like writing a short essay. It should have a beginning that hooks the listener, followed by a middle that sets up characters or provides information people need to know to understand the joke. Then finish with a "punch line"—the point of the joke.

Practice your performance.

### Pull everything together

Once you have several jokes written, you can add them to a stand-up routine, called a "set." A set can be anywhere from a few minutes to more than an hour, but for beginners it's best to keep it short. Open your set with a joke that will get your audience laughing. Between jokes, include transitions to help link one story to the next. You should conclude with a strong "closer," one last joke that will leave your audience laughing.

### Perfect your routine

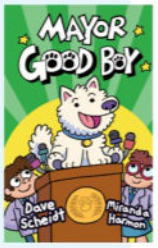
Once you've created your set, it's time to practice. You can perform in front of a mirror or record yourself and play it back. This will help you see how long your set is and where you might make changes. Next, perform in front of a friend or family member who can help you see what people laugh at the most or tell you if any of your jokes are confusing. Take notes and make changes as necessary.

### Plan a performance

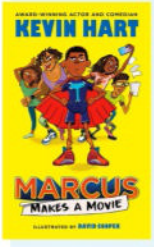
Once you feel comfortable with your stand-up material, it's time to perform! A party with family or friends can be a good place to start. When you're ready to perform, remember to take a few deep breaths. Then relax, be yourself, and have fun!

## 4 funny books you'll love

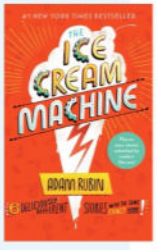
Get inspiration for your own comedy with these books that are packed with laugh-out-loud lines and silly scenes.



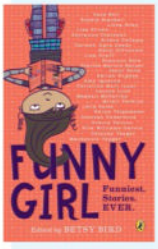

**Mayor Good Boy**
In this book by Dave Scheidt and Miranda Harmon, a puppy politician helps the town while also making readers crack up.




**Marcus Makes a Movie**
Written by comedian Kevin Hart, this graphic novel follows a middle school student who decides to make his own movie. Watching him figure out how is both hilarious and inspiring.




**The Ice Cream Machine**
This book of stories by Adam Rubin includes six funny tales about the frozen treat, including one about an ice cream stand run by a penguin.




**Funny Girl: Funniest. Stories. Ever**
Get ready to giggle at short stories by 25 funny female writers. This collection, edited by author and librarian Betsy Bird, includes sidesplitting stories by Cece Bell, Shannon Hale, and Raina Telgemeier.

**FUN FACT**
Duct tape got its name in part from the fact that the tape can repel water, like duck feathers can.

# Craft a duct tape water bottle holder

## What you need:

- Water bottle
- Scrap paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Duct tape
- Ruler

## Instructions

1. Cut a rectangular pattern for the water bottle holder from scrap paper. The height should be a few inches shorter than your water bottle, and the width should be the bottle's circumference plus about an inch more. Check that the size is right by rolling the pattern into a cylinder with the ends overlapping slightly. Hold it in place, and make sure the bottle can go in and out comfortably.
2. Create a duct tape sheet: Cut a strip of duct tape to the width of the pattern, and lay it down on your work surface, sticky side up. Lay more strips, sticky side up, overlapping each other until the sheet is as tall as your pattern. (For a vertical striped holder, lay the strips down the tall way.) Cover the sticky side of your sheet with more strips of tape, this time with the sticky side down.
3. Roll the duct tape sheet into a cylinder and tape up the seam with more duct tape on the inside and outside.
4. To make the bottom for the holder, measure across its bottom opening. Cut a strip of tape to that length and a second strip two inches longer. Center the shorter strip on the longer strip and press the sticky sides together. Use the two sticky ends of this strip to adhere it to each side of the bottom of the holder.
5. To make the strap, determine how long you would like it to be. Add four inches to that measurement and cut a piece of duct tape to that length. Fold the piece in half or thirds the long way to make a skinny strap. Tape the strap to the inside of the top of the cylinder, overlapping about two inches on each side. Add a piece of tape to the outside for strength.

## Helpful tips

- If you have trouble cutting through duct tape, you can create the duct tape sheet on wax paper and cut through the wax paper and duct tape at the same time.
- Instead of making a duct tape strap, you can use ribbon.

## ECO TIP OF THE WEEK: REDUCE YOUR IMPACT ON NATURE

**When you're enjoying the outdoors—whether you're at a local park or camping in the wilderness—it's important to minimize your impact on the environment around you. Anything you leave behind, even by accident, could be harmful to animals or plants. To reduce your impact on nature, practice the principles of "leave no trace." That means leaving an area exactly as you found it when you arrived. Always look around to make sure you picked up everything you brought with you. This includes carrying out trash and food scraps to dispose of properly. It's also best not to take items you find in nature. Rocks, shells, and sticks are part of the local ecosystem and should be left alone.**

JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAKEIT; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

# Keyword crossword

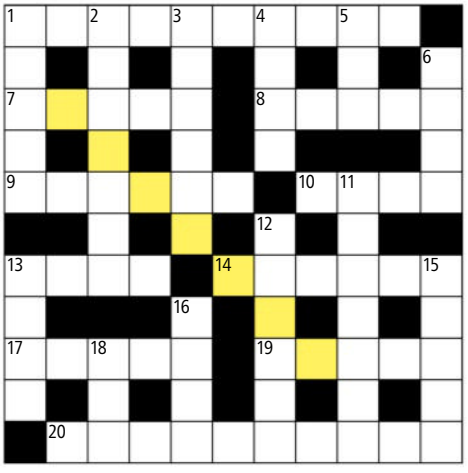
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

**ACROSS**

1 Place where a bishop might meet a knight
7 Explode like a volcano
8 Highly poisonous snake with a hood
9 Stop working for a living
10 Utensil for eating a meatball
13 Number sometimes mistaken for a letter
14 Sport that takes place in a square "ring"
17 The brother of a parent
19 Thick cloud of bees or locusts
20 Sport with equipment that includes the vault and the parallel bars

**DOWN**

1 Yell "Hooray!" for example
2 The imaginary line dividing Earth's northern hemisphere from its southern one
3 Planet famous for its rings
4 "That hurts!" sound
5 Part of the skeletal "cage" protecting your lungs
6 Playing card between the 10 and the queen
11 Art of folding paper into shapes like cranes and planes
12 Spots where chickens sleep
13 Greek god often depicted throwing lightning bolts
15 Trouble, hopscotch, and tag, for example
16 Tube that blood flows through in your body
18 Sob



**Keyword question: What was seen in the sky over Taiwan for nearly nine hours in 2017, setting a world record?** ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

# CODE CRACKER

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

In this coded list of black-and-white things, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded A. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code. (NEED ANOTHER HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

☐☐☐☐A
V C O L X

☐☐☐☐☐☐ ☐A☐☐
D P A A C L O X Y Y

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
A L P D D M P L F D

☐A☐ ☐☐☐☐
O X L A P F C

# THREE FOR ALL

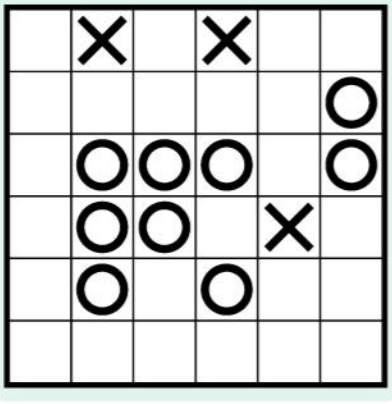
Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY.

**PETS CANDY BUBBLE NO SCENTED**
**BATH MACHINE ALLOWED COTTON**

_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____

# Hit or miss

Place an X or O in each empty square so there are never more than three X's or O's together in a row, column, or the two diagonals. Hint: If you find three in a row of one letter, you can put the other letter into the spaces at either end.



# Spot the difference

These two pictures of a bison appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY



**Code cracker hint:** The first word is an animal.

T. rexes roaring to go

## Racing dinos tear up the track

The Emerald Downs racetrack in Washington typically hosts competitions for horses. But for one weekend each summer, it's the site of the T. Rex World Championships. This year, more than 200 people dressed in inflatable dinosaur costumes and ran a 100-meter dash. It was a close finish, with two T. rexes crossing the finish line in approximately nine seconds. Boto Rex (Ocean Kim of Hawaii) won first prize, with Deno the Dino (Colton Winegar of Idaho) a close second. Ezra Moaalii of Washington won the kids' race.

Savor every minute (or hour).

## A weird and wonderful dinner

A restaurant called Alchemist in Copenhagen, Denmark, has a waiting list of 40,000 people who long to sample its very unusual food. The restaurant asks customers to "arrive with your mind open" for a meal that costs about $711 per person. Diners sit under a giant dome with light projections of jellyfish swimming around the ceiling. The menu is made up of 50 courses, including a freeze-dried butterfly, "space bread," a dish that resembles a human eye, and a "tongue kiss." After their six-hour meal, diners are encouraged to jump into to a giant ball pit.

No tomato sauce needed.

## Serving up spaghetti sundaes

Cakes that look like other objects are trendy, but a different kind of delicious disguise is gaining popularity in Germany. The frozen dessert, which looks like a plate of pasta, is called *spaghettieis* (*eis* means ice cream in German). A teen invented the treat in the 1960s by shaping vanilla ice cream into thin strings and topping it with strawberry sauce and grated white chocolate. Now it is making a big comeback, with about 30 million cups sold each year. Ice cream shapes are "nothing new," said a historian. "But molding it into spaghetti? That's unique."

Can you put a price on art?

## Works of art from a machine

At Drake Circus Shopping Centre in Plymouth, England, there is a new vending machine with an artistic twist. Instead of selling snacks or sodas, this machine dispenses plays, poems, and badges designed by artists for about $1 each. It's part of a public project to help local artists and writers become better known. Although customers won't get a candy bar, this is a creative way for them to discover new local artwork. Is this story real? Or are we selling you a lie?*

*Reall Plymouth is promoting artists, and 20 playwrights and poets have written works for the machine. The money earned will go directly back to the creators. The installation will stay at the mall until November 8.

AP; GETTY IMAGES (2); CHRISTIAN CABLE; SHUTTERSTOCK (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

## Editor's note

Congratulations to Coco Gauff on becoming the first American teenager to win the US Open tennis tournament since 1999! The match was incredible (p18), as was the moment afterward when Gauff received her prize money. "Thank you, Billie, for fighting for this," she said to Billie Jean King, the four-time US Open champion who refused to back down 50 years ago until male and female players earned the same amount. This week we also congratulate the grand prize winners, runners-up, and finalists in our third annual Nature Photo Contest. Narrowing down more than 1,900 fantastic entries to the images on our front and back covers and on pages 12–15 was nearly impossible. Fortunately, we had help from professional photographers Jesse Burke, Angela Ledyard, and Ami Vitale. Thank you all! And thank you to every child who entered. Your work is amazing, and I hope you keep it up!

*Andrea Barbalich*
Editor-in-Chief

## CHARITY OF THE WEEK

### Tickets for Kids

**This organization's mission is to ensure that all children can enjoy live events. It works with other groups to provide free tickets for kids to visit museums and attend concerts, games, and more. It encourages anyone with unused tickets to donate them to the group. Since the group was founded in 1994, it has given out over 3.4 million tickets.**

**Find out more at ticketsforkids.org.**

# Raising money for Hawaii

Julia, 10, and Hannah, 12, New York

"We learned about the devastating wildfires in Hawaii and decided we wanted to do something to help. We both enjoy creating friendship bracelets and earrings as a hobby, so we sold them outside our building for the charity Maui Strong, which is part of the Hawaii Community Foundation. This charity helps those who were affected by the wildfires to rebuild. We donated more than half of our profits and were able to donate $60! It felt so great for us to take action and to support others."

**Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.***

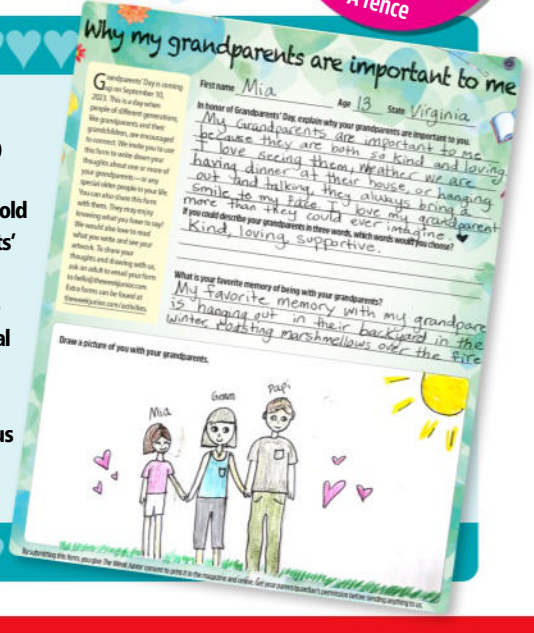
**RIDDLE OF THE WEEK**

What can run all around the yard without ever getting tired?

A fence

## What makes your grandparents special?

**Mia—who is 13 years old and from Virginia—told us she enjoys eating dinner at her grandparents' house and that a favorite memory is roasting marshmallows with them in their backyard. To celebrate your grandparent or any other special older person, go to kidstheweekjunior.com/activities to print out a form (like the one at right). Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*. We'll feature some of the responses in future issues.**


Why my grandparents are important to me

First name Mia Age 13 State Virginia

In honor of Grandparents' Day, explain why your grandparents are important to you.

My Grandparents are important to me because they are both so kind and loving. I love seeing them, whether we are having dinner at their house, or hanging out and talking, they always bring a smile to my face. I love my grandparent more than they could ever imagine.

If you could describe your grandparents in three words, which words would you choose?

Kind, loving, supportive.

What is your favorite memory of being with your grandparents?

My favorite memory with my grandparents is hanging out in their backyard in the winter, roasting marshmallows over the fire.

Draw a picture of you with your grandparents.

Mia Grandma Papa

**IT'S YOUR TURN** Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

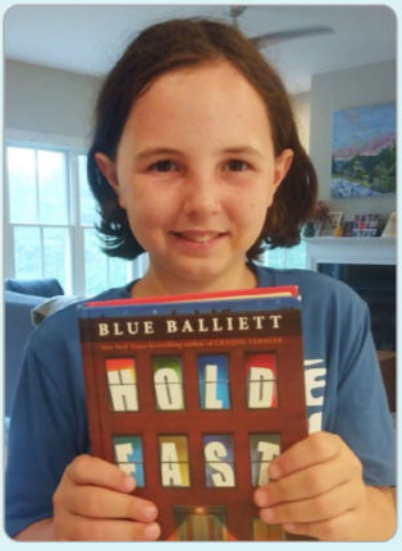
# Your turn

## YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"I saw the tomato and peach Caprese salad recipe and wanted to make it. The result was delicious!" Julia, 10, Florida

"I love these magazines, and they are so fun to read. I can learn so much from them." Ellis, 10, Louisiana




"I liked the book *Hold Fast* because Blue Balliett is a good author. There are a lot of cliffhangers!" Susannah, 9, Vermont

## Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Jaouad**

School: **United Nations International School**

**"Mr. Jaouad is the most thoughtful and funny teacher! He always thinks about his students. Mr. Jaouad makes puns so bad they're hilarious! His style of teaching makes everything clear, and he takes the time to have humorous and intelligent conversations with us. He makes sure each of us knows we are special and that we should be the best person we can be. I am so lucky to have had Mr. Jaouad as a teacher."**

Elina, 11, New York

**Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!**
**Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.**

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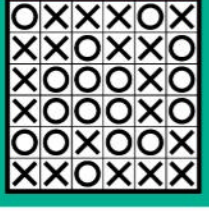
## Puzzle answers (from page 26)

**Code cracker**
zebra
soccer ball
crosswords
bar code

**Three for all**
no pets allowed
scented bubble bath
cotton candy machine



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| R | E | T | I | R | E | ■ | F | O | R | K |
| ■ | ■ | O | ■ | N | ■ | R | ■ | R | ■ | ■ |
| Z | E | R | O | ■ | B | O | X | I | N | G |
| E | ■ | ■ | ■ | V | ■ | O | ■ | G | ■ | A |
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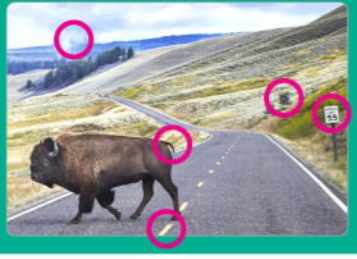
| S | ■ | R | ■ | I | ■ | T | ■ | M | ■ | E |
| ■ | G | Y | M | N | A | S | T | I | C | S |

**Keyword answer**
rainbow



**Quiz answers** (from page 30)
**1** c) Franklin D. Roosevelt **2** Strawberry **3** b) Sabrina Ionescu **4** True **5** b) Vincent van Gogh **6** Hollywood **7** True **8** a) Mario **9** Aunt Penny **10** c) Franklin Park Zoo **11** c) Japan **12** False. California was the first. **13** The University of Texas **14** False. She has been on the North American leg of her tour. **15** c) Boto Rex

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

# How much of this week's news can you remember?

**1** The first US Presidential library was created in honor of which former President?

a) Herbert Hoover b) Harry Truman

c) Franklin D. Roosevelt

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**2** Scientists identified a species of Antarctic feather star that resembles what fruit?

**3** Which player is on the cover of the WNBA edition of the video game NBA2K24?

a) Breanna Stewart b) Sabrina Ionescu

c) A'Ja Wilson

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**4** True or false? Bison have been introduced into the Russian Arctic.

True ☐ False ☐

**5** In a recent study, babies and adults were shown paintings by which Dutch artist?

a) Frans Hals b) Vincent van Gogh

c) Rembrandt

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**6** While filming the show *Animals Up Close with Bertie Gregory*, what nickname did Gregory's team give a puma?

**7** True or false? Coco Gauff is the first American teen to win the US Open since Serena Williams won in 1999.

True ☐ False ☐

**8** Charles Martinet retired from voicing which beloved video game character?

a) Mario b) Fox McCloud c) Captain Falcon

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11

10

7

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

4

1

**9** In the book *The Vanderbeekers Ever After*, who is the Vanderbeekers' landlord Mr. B planning to marry?

**10** A baby Masai giraffe was recently born at which US zoo?

a) Sequoia Park Zoo

b) Miller Park Zoo

c) Franklin Park Zoo

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**11** Which country's space agency launched a rocket headed toward the Moon on September 7?

a) China b) India c) Japan

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**12** True or false? New Mexico was the first state to offer free school meals to all public school students.

True ☐ False ☐

**13** Who broke the University of Alabama's 21-game home winning streak in college football?

**14** True or false? Since July, Beyoncé has been on the European leg of her Renaissance tour.

True ☐ False ☐

**15** What name did Ocean Kim of Hawaii use while competing in this year's T. Rex World Championships?

a) Rocky Rex

b) Deno the Dino

c) Boto Rex

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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“It helps in school by keeping me up to date with the news.”

—Elizabeth

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
THE WEEK Junior
Making sense of the world
OUT OF THIS WORLD
The US space agency celebrates 65 years of exploring the universe p12
NASA
THE GRAND CANYON
Explore the famous natural wonder in the Arizona desert
Protect the OCEAN
People around the world focus on saving our seas p2
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THE WEEK Junior

GRAND PRIZE
Ages 8–10
ERICKSON

**In Erickson's words:**

"In my yard in Hawaii, I often see anole lizards sitting on the bromeliad plants waiting for an insect to fly by."

9001
9000